improvement and (ii) transport and port infrastructure to handle the increased shipment; and

(e) whether Government feels that KIOCL has now turned into a profitable venture, if not, the rteasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Some complaints have been received by Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) about higher serlica content in iron ore concentrate and crushing strength of iron ore pellets after reduction. This is due to poorer quality of raw ore that is becoming available because of progressive mining carried out during the last decade. This quality of ore is relatively less amenable to further processing for separating silica to the levels desired. KIOCL is taking various measures such as installation of tertiary magnetic separators, floatation cells, computerised mine planning and use of alternate binders to improve the quality of supplies.

During the year 1991-92, KIOCL supplied 2.17 million tonnes of iron ore concentrate and 0.20 million tonnes of iron ore pellets to Japan.

(c) *The details are given below:*

(in million tonnes)

	Concentrate	Pellets
Actuals		
1990-91	6·01	1·92
1991-92	5·85	2·13
Target (Provisional)		
1993-94	6·50	2·35

(d) The total expenditure incurred during 1991-92 by KIOCL on quality improvements was Rs. 3.28 crores. Expenditure on transport and port infrastructure is incurred by the port authorities and not by KIOCL.

(e) KIOCL has been making profits from 1989-90 and earned the highest ever net profit of Rs. 140.27 crores in 1991-92. The accumulated losses of KIOCL which stood at Rs. 253 crores as on 31-3-89 have been brought down to only Rs. 37.01 crores as on 31st March, 1992.

Signing of MOU by Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited with Ministry of Steel

1732. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Union Steel Ministry envisaging a Rs. 120 crore turn-over for the year 1992-93; and

(b) if so, what are the details of MOU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MECON has entered into Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Steel for the year 1992-93 wherein MECON is targetted to achieve a turn-over of Rs. 120 crores during 1992-93. The targetted profit (before tax) is Rs. 9 crores and net earnings in foreign exchange are targetted at Rs. 5 crores. MECON also has set a target for procuring new business to the tune of Rs. 105 crores during 1992-93.

Export/Import of Steel Products

1733. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steel products alongwith quantity and value exported from India in the years 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) what are the steel materials imported in the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 alongwith quantity and foreign exchange incurred thereon; and

(c) what steps are taken by Government to increase exports of steel products and to minimise import of steel materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The quantity and value of steel products exported during 1990-91 and 1991-92 by the main producers are as under:

(Quantity in '000 tonnes)
(Value in Rs. crores)

Products	1990-91		1991-92	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1. Plates	183	110	166	130
2. Wire Rods	101	55	140	96
3. Bars	20	11	30	21
4. Structurals	7	5	33	25
5. Bilets	..	..	13	..
6. Other M.S. items	..	..	5	4

(b) The quantity and value of steel imports during 1990-91 and 1991-92 are as under:

(Quantity in '000 tonnes)
(Value in Rs. crores)

Product	1990—91*		1991=92*	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1. Ingots & other primary forms of iron & steel	27·1	18·07	28·9	23·62
2. Iron and Steel bars, rods, angles, shapes sections (including sheet piling)	67·5	111·67	42·3	97·60
3. Plates, sheets & other flat products of iron & steel	1147·9	1205·49	838·7	1052·38
4. Rails & railway track construction materials of iron & steel	38·5	64·56	113·9	185·34

*Source : DCI & S, Calcutta.

(c) Some of the measures taken by Government to facilitate steel exports include decontrol of export of all iron & steel items (except pig iron and scrap) and allowing duty free import of raw materials and consumables for exports through the introduction of a rationalised Advance Licensing Scheme.

Delicensing of the steel industry and deregulation of steel will encourage private sector investment in steel production. Import duties on raw materials like steel melting scrap for the secondary sector have also been reduced. The integrated steel plants are in the process of modernisation/expansion. With the resultant increase in domestic production, the need for steel imports will be minimised in due course.

Underground drainage in Jabalpur

1734. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since accorded financial sanction and final approval to the scheme for underground drainage in Jabalpur town;